

comprises the substep of inflating the balloon by passing an inflation fluid through a flow passage between the inner tubular member and the outer tubular member.

3 115. The method of claim 114 further comprising the step of measuring pressure within the inflatable balloon with a pressure transducer within the inflatable balloon.

4 116. The method of claim 113 wherein the step of introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel is preceded by the step of withdrawing the outer tubular member proximally with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device.

5 117. The method of claim 113 wherein the step of introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel is preceded by the step of rotating the outer tubular member with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device.

6 118. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of measuring aortic pressure distal to the occluding member.

7 119. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of measuring aortic pressure distal to the occluding member with a pressure transducer near the distal end of the shaft.

120. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of measuring aortic pressure distal to the occluding member with a pressure transducer near the distal end of the shaft.

121. A method of partitioning a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic partitioning device into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member;

advancing the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the aorta and expanding a distal expandable member attached to the shaft near the distal end of the shaft to protect the distal end of the shaft from contact with an inner surface of the aorta; and

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft proximal to the distal expandable member is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to completely block blood flow therethrough.

122. The method of claim 121 wherein the step of transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta includes the substep of advancing the shaft until the expanded distal expandable member contacts the patient's aortic valve.

123. A method of partitioning a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic partitioning device into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta with the distal end of the elongated shaft in proximity to a wall of the ascending aorta which is most elevated and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to completely block blood flow therethrough.

124. The method of claim 123 further comprising the step of venting the ascending aorta through a lumen connecting with the distal end of the shaft.

125. The method of claim 124 including the step of placing the patient supine so that the wall of the ascending aorta which is most elevated is an anterior wall of the ascending aorta and the distal end of the elongated shaft is in proximity to the anterior wall so that any air within the ascending aorta is withdrawn through the lumen of the aortic partitioning device in the venting step.--.